

The TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup (TD GCSC) was a huge success this year and it is all thanks to **YOUR** participation. Our Site Coordinators are not only dedicated and inspirational to the cause of environmental conservation in their own community; they also represent the diversity of people performing direct environmental action. From schools to businesses, community clubs to friends and family, each and every individual makes a difference. Thank YOU for joining us this year as leaders in your community for becoming part of the solution.

Your data has been sent to the International Coastal Cleanup for global comparisons and we are currently finalizing the national results. While we work on the final report here are some preliminary findings that you can share with your friends:

- In total over **160,000 kg** of litter was removed. If you can't picture how heavy that is, it's almost the weight of 358 moose! As always, the top three culprits for the 2009 TD GCSC were cigarette butts, food wrappers, and plastic bags, with many recyclables such as plastic bottles and aluminum cans rounding out our "dirty dozen".
- The unusual litter that groups find never ceases to amaze us including a statue of the Hindu God Shiva, an artificial Christmas tree, a Chewbacca toy, hair extensions, a mini trampoline, the basket from a hot air balloon, and a mannequin with a bikini on it. What do these have in common? Not much, but they were all found during this year's TD GCSC and to quote one of the messages found in a bottle, "Please don't litter!"

The increasing amount of litter we find on our shorelines means we need to do more to raise awareness. Not only is it important to target the behaviours that contribute to the act of littering, but it is also important to promote waste reduction right from the start. We hope that your participation has helped reiterate just important this is.

If you'd like us to email you a copy of the final report once it's complete, please respond to this e-mail. We'll also be posting it on the website along with reports from previous years. You can access these here: <http://vanaqua.org/cleanup/press.php>. The final report will also feature this year's winners of the Site Coordinator Award of Achievement.

We look forward to your participation in the 2010 TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. In 2010 we will once again have a registration period exclusive for our returning Site Coordinators. We'll be in touch as soon as this is available, so make sure to take advantage of this chance to sign up early for your preferred location.

Sincerely,

The TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup Team